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MISSOURI SOCIETY
1905.

Prize Medal Essay Contest

BY THE
High School Scholars and Schools of Equal Grade
OF THE
STATE OF MISSOURI.
SUBJECT:

“Foreign Sympathy in the War of the Revolution.”

The First Prize, a Gold Medal, awarded to
CLEO HUFFAKER, of Lexington High School, Lexington.

The Second Prize, a Silver Medal, awarded to
EARLE BOWERS, of Central High School, Kansas City.

The Third Prize, a Bronze Medal, awarded to
MISS FLORENCE RUSSUM, of Carthage High School, Carthage.

Honorable Mention awarded to
MISS ELIZABETH NOFSINGER, Manual Training School, Kansas City.
MISS ELIZABETH MOISE, Central High School, Kansas City.
MISS MARGIE CRAWFORD, St. Joseph High School, St. Joseph.

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1905.

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Author
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COMMITTEE ON AWARDS.

PROF. EDWARD ARCHIBALD ALLEN, Lit. D., State University, Columbia.

HON. CURTIS BURNAM ROLLINS, Columbia.

HON. WALTER WILLIAMS, Columbia.

UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI.

COLUMBIA, Mo., January 3, 1905.

MR. HENRY CADLE, Secretary Missouri Society Sons of the
Revolution:

DEAR SIR: After careful examination of the essays submitted for prizes offered by the Missouri Society Sons of the Revolution, the committee has decided,

That the first prize should go to "Carl Henning."

The second prize should go to "Seventy Six."

The third prize should go to "Iva."

The three essays selected for "honorable mention" are those signed,

"Betsy Ross."

"An American."

"Il Penseroso."

The committee finds many other essays worthy of mention.

Respectfully submitted,

EDWARD A. ALLEN,

CURTIS B. ROLLINS,

WALTER WILLIAMS.

Committee.



CLEO HUFFAKER,
First Prize.
Lexington High School,
Lexington.



EARLE BOWERS,
Second Prize.
Central High School,
Kansas City.



MISS FLORENCE RUSSUM,
Third Prize.
Carthage High School,
Carthage.

WINNERS OF PRIZE MEDALS.

THE FIRST PRIZE ESSAY,

(GOLD MEDAL).

"FOREIGN SYMPATHY IN THE WAR OF THE REVOLUTION,"

BY CLEO HUFFAKER,

of Lexington High School, Lexington.

The sympathy given America by foreign countries was of wide extent, nor were the effects less extensive than the sympathy itself. It compelled George III to carry on the war in opposition to his people; it prevented him from readily obtaining troops, and at last, altogether, it supplied America with trained officers, who trained American troops; supplied American coffers with gold when her credit was but a shadow; and lastly, it brought the French Army and Navy to the side of the Americans.

In England, such men as Burke, Howe, Pitt and Richmond, declared that the Americans were in the right. The people saw in the attempt of the king and his ministers to conquer America, the first step towards the final suppression of English liberties. They refused to serve in the English army; George then applied to Russia for troops. Although the English laid great stress on their aid in the war with Turkey, Catherine not only refused the troops, but even expressed a wish that the Americans would win, because "It was not consistent with the dignity of the English people to employ foreign troops against her own subjects." The king then applied to Holland for the loan of her "Scottish Brigade." Now the Hollanders remembered how they had battled for freedom, and saw that by the American defeat, the grave would be dug for their liberty, so in spite of almost a century's alliance with England, they refused.

There was only one other recruiting ground in Europe; this was Germany. For the sake of liberty, Germany had passed through sixty years of war and to escape persecution many of the Germans had fled to America. In the Seven Years' War, Frederic, Pitt and Washington had fought to uphold human freedom. In spite of this, the petty princes of Germany in defiance of the

laws made by the diet, sold the services of their subjects to George. It was with heavy hearts that these people left their homes to fight against people with whom they sympathized. Frederic was so indignant that he wrote to Voltaire that the whole procedure was outrageous, and ordered that a tax be levied upon all that came through Prussia, as upon cattle exported for foreign shambles. Afterwards he refused to allow the troops to pass through. Such writers as Kant, Lessing, Herder, Goethe, Schiller and Niebuhr, the last representative of German intelligence, agreed with Frederic and joined together to welcome the United States to their place among the nations.

There were a large number of foreigners in the American army. Out of the twenty-nine major-generals, eleven were Europeans; among the brigadier-generals, sixteen. It is not by numbers but by attainments that we are to estimate the services of these officers. Many of them had served through the Seven Years' War, which was the greatest school of military science of the time. Almost all of them were familiar with the rudiments of their profession. A few soldiers, such as formed the bulk of the European armies, might have little influence in forming a regiment of American farmers, but a single experienced officer could do much towards the correcting of the deficiencies of his colleagues. One of the greatest needs of the Americans was engineers. No native genius or rapid training could supply these, hence European officers were employed. Among these were Duportail, Launoy, Radiere and Gouvion, who brought what was most needed, science combined with practical skill. Others who served in this capacity were DeKalb, Armond de la Rouerie, Pulaski and last and probably the greatest, Kosciuszko.

However, the greatest of all foreigners who gave their services to America were Lafayette and Steuben. The latter, the son of a soldier and raised in the camps, had been one of Frederic's favorite officers. From him Steuben learned the principles of warfare, which had given Frederic his great success. When St. Germain interested him in the cause of the Americans, although the Commissioners could not advance the passage money, he came to America. Steuben found the Americans in winter-quarters at Valley Forge. Although he had spent his life among military hardships, he had never seen such suffering, but still he held his purpose.

The American Army was, at this time, very defective in organization. These defects extended from the drill of the common soldiers to the administration of the Quartermaster-general's department. Each officer had a system of training of his own, thus destroying all uniformity. In the inspection system defects equally as great, caused every year the loss of five thousand stand of arms. The system of returns kept hundreds of men on the pay roll after they had been discharged, and all officers were kept in ignorance of the number and condition of their men. To supply these deficiencies, to introduce uniform system of manœuvre, inspection and returns, to infuse harmony into the army, to inspire the officers with self-confidence and the men with confidence in their officers, was Steuben's task.

He began first with a company of one hundred and twenty men. These he made the nucleus of a splendidly trained army. So thorough was this training that at Monmouth a division was observed to halt and form, under a heavy fire, as coolly as if on parade. In all other departments the same results attended his efforts. Returns were made according to forms, with close attention to accurateness. By glancing at the foot of a column, the officer could tell how many men were on duty; how many were sick or disabled; how many of each state were enlisted, and how many would leave him at the end of the war. Before this, five thousand muskets had been lost every year, and the war office had regularly made an allowance for this, but under Steuben's system only three were missing and they were accounted for. He brought to America what he only could have brought, a thorough knowledge of military tactics. Without his help it is difficult to see how two more campaigns could have been carried out.

Lafayette early learned the profession of an officer. Before he came to America he had risen to the rank of lieutenant. When he heard of the American War, he at once desired to aid the colonists. Escaping the officers who were sent to detain him, he equipped a ship at his own expense and set sail for America. When he arrived, he at once began to learn what he needed. In elementary tactics, he was better grounded than were most of his associates, but in higher science he had as much to learn as they.

Lafayette fell into this new mode of life as readily as if he had been trained to it. His wealth enabled him to perform many benevolences which attached the people to him. Of the opinions

the colonists had brought from England, none were preserved more carefully than their prejudices against France. The American statesmen knew that in their struggle with the strongest power of Europe, France was their ally. They needed French arms; they needed French money; they might need French ships and soldiers. The first appearance of military adventurers from France was hailed as a happy omen, but the thought of what they might need from France, added to the embarrassment of Congress, when these adventurers became so numerous they had to refuse their services. But the prejudice was plainly visible in such men as John Adams and John Jay. What then was to be expected if the French navy and army should come to fight by the side of the Americans?

To smooth over these difficulties, to overcome these prejudices and to convert jealousy into honorable friendship, was the first service Lafayette rendered to his adopted country. His rank allowed him to assume a tone with his dissatisfied countrymen that sometimes checked their arrogance and often set bounds to their pretensions. The French alliance might have been attained without Lafayette, but the harmony which made it useful was owing to the hold he had taken on the confidence of the American people. Without him the alliance might have come too late. The popular enthusiasm he raised in France, convinced England that he did nothing without the sanction of the French court. Thus the French government found itself strengthened at home and abroad for an open declaration. Lafayette's hand is almost as visible in the treaty of alliance as is Franklin's.

Though he did nothing more as a general than any other man might have done, his pure purpose, his noble aims, his intelligent zeal and fervid enthusiasm has given him a place in American history, which belongs to him alone.

In France the philosophers controlled the public opinion as they never had before in any age or country. Such men as Voltaire, Rousseau, Montesquieu and Furgot saw in the preservation of English liberties, the hope of the world. Nor did the French take any interest in the English king or the supremacy of Parliament, hence the sympathies of all, the king excepted, were for America.

As yet Vergennes, the minister of foreign affairs, who had been waiting for a favorable opportunity to take part in the

struggle, had contented himself with secret aid. For more than a year he had been in intrigue with Arthur Lee, the London agent for Virginia, and just before the Declaration of Independence he sent over a million dollars to help the Americans.

In October, Franklin was sent to France. To many he seemed to sum up within himself the American cause. Symbolizing as it were the liberty France was desiring, he was greeted with an enthusiasm such as no Frenchman had ever called forth, with the exception of Voltaire. France then agreed to furnish two million livres a year to aid the Americans. She immediately sent three ship loads of military stores, two of which arrived safely. The American privateers were allowed to fit out in French ports, and even to dispose of their prizes at the same places. Besides this, France advanced a million livres on some tobacco the commissioners were to furnish. In all, France was instrumental in procuring for the colonies, eighteen million livres as a loan, and a gift of nine million.

Never was anything so needed as specie at this time. The paper money of the colonies had been before this time almost worthless. Now it at once rose in value, and the credit of the colonies revived.

The French alliance also brought a well trained and well equipped army to fight by the side of the Americans. Before this the American army had been oppressed by the lack of men; now the addition of several thousand French regulars was a very important factor. The American navy consisted of only privateers, and the addition of a large French fleet enabled the Americans to cope with the English fleets on something of an equal footing.

Without foreign aid it is difficult to see how the Americans could have won. Mere bravery and determination might for a while have won, but lack of skill, training and technical science would at last have told. Bancroft refers to the aid of the French forces as "Priceless." What then must be the value of the aid that brought the Americans what they lacked and of themselves could not supply?

CARL HENNING.

THE SECOND PRIZE ESSAY,

(SILVER MEDAL).

"FOREIGN SYMPATHY IN THE WAR OF THE REVOLUTION,"

BY EARLE BOWERS,

of Central High School, Kansas City.

"If I were an American, as I am an Englishman, while a foreign troop were landed on my shores, I would never lay down my arms! Never! Never! Never!" When William Pitt thus ended his last appeal to the House of Lords, his memorable words were unheeded. The petty statesmen of the hour rightly believed that America could not obtain by armed resistance the justice for which the Great Commoner was pleading. They could not foresee that the righteousness of the cause of the colonists would enlist the sympathy of aliens and foreigners till with their aid, independence was finally achieved. It is not strange that men only influenced by selfish or partisan motives should have failed to see anything attractive in the service of America.

Seldom in the history of nations, has a people's cause offered less to tempt the cupidity of mere adventurers. Stretched along the coast of the Atlantic, thinly populated, unaccustomed to concerted action, with nearly all their natural resources undiscovered or undeveloped, the colonies seemed ill prepared to defy the power of England. The government against which they rose in rebellion had restricted their commerce and rigorously suppressed their manufactures, thus seriously interfering with important sources of wealth. When the Continental Congress could not provide food, clothing, arms or ammunition for the American soldiers, it obviously was in no position to bargain for foreign assistance. Those who came from abroad, must volunteer with no expectation of personal gain, trusting that future generations of Americans would honor their motives and not forget their deeds. To describe the influence of foreign sympathy in the revolution, is to tell of the participation of foreigners

in that momentous struggle. There were those who came with the vain expectation of bettering their personal fortunes. Such was the character of the conspirators concerned in the Conway Cabal. The baseness of a few, however, could not cast a shadow on the faithful service of the numerous foreign heroes who did so much to gain American Independence.

In many instances, these aliens were attracted by the principles that the people of America were fighting to establish. The truths enunciated in the stirring periods of the Declaration of Independence were not new to them; the thoughts expressed were their own, clothed in the language of the sages of the earth. A part of this foreign contingent came from Poland, where the people had learned the bitterness of tyranny, and suffered wrongs more grievous than America ever endured. Men of every age and manner of life were united beneath the banners of the American leaders.

France was generously represented in that gathering of foreign soldiers. Duponceau, Du Partail Dubryson and Duplessis were among those who endured the hardships of Valley Forge with the Continental army. We read that Colonel De Faneul enlisted "as a volunteer without pay or rations." Of all the French, however, Lafayette was most honored and best beloved. He first heard the Declaration of Independence at a dinner given in honor of the English king. His interest and sympathy were at once aroused. Heedless of the remonstrances of the French sovereign, leaving wife and fortune behind, he sailed for America and offered his services to Congress. After that time, Lafayette was to be found wherever the danger was greatest or hardships were most severe. Long suffering Poland, too, gave of the noblest of her sons to insure American success. Pulaski became the commander of the cavalry, and rode to a heroic death at the head of his legion during the siege of Savannah. "What can you do?" asked Washington, when Kosciuszko came to him seeking employment. "Try me" was the reply. The trial proved successful; the Polish engineer afterward planned the fortifications behind which the American army at Bemis' Heights, gained a glorious victory in one of the most important battles of modern times. None of the soldiers of the Revolution performed more important services than the Prussian veterans, who created the discipline and "esprit de corps" of the army. Had wealth untold been in the empty

treasury of the Confederation, it could have purchased no more faithful or efficient service than these officers freely gave. In the darkest hours our nation ever saw, when its only resource was the handful of freezing, starving men who shivered in their rude huts at Valley Forge, Baron Steuben was made Inspector of the Army. Almost immediately, confusion and disorder were banished from the camp. Dismounted, musket in hand, this courtier and general transformed an awkward squad into trained soldiers, that they might become the drillmasters of the army. Thanks to his days of patient labor and nights of careful planning, the raw recruits who went into camp at the beginning of that dreadful winter, marched away in the spring to win renown as the disciplined battalions of the Continental line. Prussian soldiers also demonstrated that when there was need, they could teach the army how to die. When the day was lost at Camden, DeKalb rallied the few Maryland regulars who still stood firm around him, and led them against the enemy till eleven wounds drained the lifeblood from his generous heart. Who of all the American leaders was more valiant in meeting danger or more patient in enduring hardships than were these foreigners, whose sympathy enlisted them in the battle for liberty?

It is well that we honor our forefathers of the Revolution, and preserve with pride the memory of their achievements, yet in their own times, they were at least partially rewarded for the sacrifices they made and the dangers they passed through. The success of the war for independence not only established the principles for which they had been contending; it made life and liberty and property more safe. Henceforth, no government could tax them when they had no voice in regulating the proportions of taxation; no foreign power could destroy their commerce and manufactures by arbitrary legislation; no one could threaten them with transportation across the sea to stand trial for alleged offences. Secure in the enjoyment of these civil liberties, rewarded by the gratitude of the people, the citizen soldiers of the new Republic were not without compensation. With the foreigners, it was not so. Whatever wealth they had was left behind when they came to America. Their heroic self-sacrifice had profited them nothing. To return to their estates in other lands meant subjection to the despotism of a former age. On the other hand, to enjoy the liberty they had sacrificed so much to gain for

others, they must begin life again among the impoverished people of an alien race. Should we not honor the unselfish devotion, that no prospect of danger or misfortune could turn from its high purpose, even more than the sturdy independence that clamored for its rights?

The individuals whose influence has been described, came from abroad in the first years of the war; even at that time, foreign nations had become involved in the diplomatic situation. Catherine of Russia and the Dutch States general refused to furnish mercenaries for the subjection of the Colonists. The people of Holland could not prove false to a liberty-loving ancestry. They saw in the conflict in the new world, a repetition of their own earlier history. The Prussian government did not leave the world in doubt as to its position. England's hirelings were refused a passage through its territory. Frederick the Great followed the campaigns of Washington with eager interest. It is said that he considered the operations around Trenton and Princeton the most brilliant in military history. France welcomed our minister at a later date, and "Goodman Richard" became the celebrity of the hour. French loans restored the failing credit of the United States, when all other resources were exhausted. The forces of DeGrasse and D'Estaing gave opportune assistance in important military operations, while the armies of Washington and Rochambeau marched side by side to the capture of the British redoubts at Yorktown. French recognition also gave the revolutionary government standing among the nations.

"But what of the sympathy on the other side?" one ignorant of history might well ask. "Surely England did not want for friends in such a crisis?" Yet strange as it may seem, no ally among all the nations justified Great Britain in the attempted subjection of its colonies. Even the English people were not united in approving the policy of the government. Burke declared in the House of Commons that "We do not seem to gain a paltry advantage over the Americans in debate without attacking some of those principles or deriding some of those feelings for which our ancestors have shed their blood." Lord Camden addressed his colleagues in even more emphatic words: "I end, my lords, as I began; you have no right to tax America! The natural rights of man, and the immutable laws of nature are all

with that people!" The Duke of Richmond, also speaking before the House of Lords, exclaimed: "I wish from the bottom of my heart, that the Americans may resist, and get the better of the forces sent against them!" Statesmen were not alone in the expression of such sentiments. Many of the great body of the people clamored against continuing the war when they became more familiar with conditions in America. No truer sympathy for the revolutionary cause existed than that to be found among those subjects of the British crown. The attitude of the people was such that many transactions connected with the hiring of Hessian mercenaries were kept secret by government officials, to avoid the storm of protests that usually followed when similar dealings were reported to Parliament. The service of the Hessians in the Revolution brought nothing but misfortune to their employers; but it taught the world that mercenaries are dear at any price. Knowing the character of England's hirelings, the contrast inspires in us a deeper admiration for the sympathy and generous self-sacrifice of the foreigners who came without the expectation of reward, to fight the battles of America.

Without assistance, the Colonists could not have gained their independence. Foreign sympathy and aid turned the fortunes of war in their favor, and insured their final victory. Looking back today at the effect of the American Revolution upon the great nations of the world, we can see that all men are indebted to the aliens who saved the cause of liberty from defeat.

The influence of the foreigners of the Revolution was not confined to any time or place. In future ages, their names shall be synonyms for the true nobility of human nature. He whose soul scorns the baseness of the rabble around him, will read the story of their lives, and gain new courage for his work. Unto the final hour of its existence, the Nation that they brought forth from the "valley of the shadow" shall hold their memory sacred. Their blood was the most precious sacrifice ever offered on the altars of Liberty.

SEVENTY-SIX.

THE THIRD PRIZE ESSAY,

(BRONZE MEDAL),

"FOREIGN SYMPATHY IN THE WAR OF THE REVOLUTION,"

BY MISS FLORENCE RUSSUM,

of Carthage High School, Carthage.

With Nations, as with men, sympathy is most appreciated when given in the hour of greatest need. Assurance of kindly feeling is received with grateful hearts, and the memory of it remains long treasured in the mind. Thus the American people ever cherish the memory of the services and expressions of interest in our cause tendered by many nations at the time of the Revolution, and, as a nation, we have often expressed our appreciation in marble.

In the eyes of the world of 1776, we were thirteen rebellious colonies, far from other nations, united only in our struggle to obtain our just rights from Great Britain. Our government was poorly organized, the states being bound together loosely in a league of friendship, and always engaged in petty quarrels among themselves. The chief powers were vested in a Congress, which, having no executive power, was unable to accomplish anything. The finances were in a terrible condition. There was no money in the national treasury, and scarcely any coin in circulation. The little we had was nearly all foreign money, much of it Spanish, received in trade with the West Indies. We had no credit abroad; neither man nor nations were willing to risk their money by lending it to colonists rebelling against one of the greatest powers of the world. We had no navy; our only ships were trading vessels owned by individuals or companies. There were no trained troops to meet the regiment of Redcoats.

Altogether we were too inexperienced and too poorly organized to hope for much aid from foreign nations. Who would expect any power to respect our government or our cause, under these conditions? Why should any persons or nations risk their

money by lending it to us? Who would want to incur the enmity of England, by aiding her rebellious colonies? But in spite of these overwhelming odds against us, we had many staunch friends in many countries.

The minds of all men were directed along the same lines. They were reaching out in search of greater civil and religious liberties and better, higher forms of government. The American Revolution came in the midst of the Age of Revolution. There had been already two revolutions in England in which the people had won that which they demanded. Holland had succeeded in winning freedom from a despotic government. Poland had revolted and tried to throw off the power of those nations, which were dismembering her. She was then preparing for a final struggle. The Irish at the same time were demanding more liberty from the English government, and the mutterings of the terrible French revolution could be heard. So the people of all these nations would naturally have kindly feelings for us, and would wish us success in breaking away from a despotic government.

At first thought one would think that we would not be kindly thought of in a country from which we were trying to free ourselves, but in England we had many friends. Some of these were men who had friends and relatives in the colonies, and knowing both sides of the question, sympathized with us. Others, from a disinterested standpoint, wished us to succeed because they thought our cause just and right. Merchants and tradesmen probably understood the difficulties of adjusting the two governments better than others, and they knew it would be better for both countries for America to win her independence. Then there were statesmen and prominent men in the English government who were interested in our cause for political reasons. They had studied the question closely and realized the justice of our claims. They understood that our demands were the same as those of the English people in 1642 and 1688. They had read the petitions and state papers addressed to the King and Parliament, and were surprised and delighted at the address and knowledge of state affairs of the men who wrote them.

Such men who took our part were Burke, Fox and Pitt. They wrote treatises about our cause and pleaded it eloquently before Parliament. They tried to persuade that body to change the course it was pursuing and to adopt a more lenient one. Burke,

besides making several vigorous appeals for us, wrote his "Conciliation." Charles Fox, that great orator and inimitable debater, acquired the hatred of King George by supporting our cause. Sir William Pitt showed his sympathy for us in several able speeches, and when he heard of the resistance of the Americans to the Stamp Act, rose from a sick bed, to make a further appeal. "I rejoice," he said, "That America has resisted."

Because of the failures of these addresses and our petitions, commissioners were sent from America to the foreign powers. In 1775, before the war began, Silas Deane was sent to France to sound the disposition of that country toward us. These men were sent by committees of secret correspondence, who realized that war was inevitable. They were sent as private citizens and were not received at many of the foreign courts. John Jay was sent to Spain; Francis Dana to Russia; Arthur Lee to Prussia; Henry Laurens to the Netherlands, and Benjamin Franklin to France. Laurens was captured by the British, and John Adams was sent to Holland in his place. Much good was expected to come from the efforts of our commissioners, as they were given power to contract commercial treaties and alliances. In 1781, a Department of Foreign Affairs was established, which had charge of these matters.

Many of the nations to whom these diplomats were sent hated England bitterly and were glad of the opportunity to strike a blow at their rival, but they were afraid of the outcome of the rebellion. If England should be victorious they feared that she would punish them severely, if they should aid us. So many of them decided upon neutrality as the best course. But when England became so aggressive on the sea and menaced the commerce of the great powers, they formed in a league against her, known as the Armed Neutrality, and later declared war. Thus they aided us by threatening England. Spain and France, at this time the best of friends and united in their hatred of England, considered together plans of aiding the determined states. Spain did not enter into any allegiance with us, but made war upon England. She sent money, however, and gave us moral support.

Catherine, of Russia, aided us indirectly by refusing to aid King George. She was interested in the progress made by the Americans, and bestowed a ribbon of honor upon Paul Jones for his brave deeds.

Frederick the Great, of Prussia, admired our courage and Washington's skill as a Commander. He opened a port to American cruisers, and refused to allow Hessian soldiers to pass through his domains to the sea. He wrote to Franklin, at Paris, after the French treaty was signed, that he would probably soon follow the example of the King of France, in recognizing our independence. Baron Von Steuben, one of the ablest generals of the Revolution, was a Prussian, who had been trained in Frederick's army. When he heard of our action, his sympathies were at once enlisted, and he came over to help us fight. He came a Prussian General, and asked to serve as a volunteer, without compensation for his services. During the terrible winter at Valley Forge, he trained the men in military tactics, until they became skilled soldiers. Washington considered his services invaluable.

In the Netherlands, Commissioner Adams met with great enthusiasm for the Americans. He had the sympathy of a Republican government. The enthusiasm of the people was so great that they forced the State's General to recognize our independence, although they could not give us material aid.

Poland had lost her cause, and many of her patriots zealously fought with us to support ours. The names of Kosciuszko and Pulaski will ever be honored by American citizens. Kosciuszko became interested in us at Paris, and sailed to America with the French fleet. He distinguished himself under Washington, and rose to the rank of Brigadier General, while his comrade, Pulaski, fell, bravely fighting at the siege of Savannah.

The Irish patriots rejoiced when the Proclamation of Independence was issued.

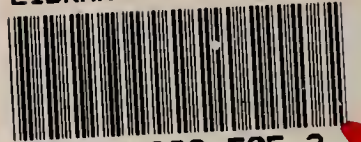
But the country which gave us the most material support was France, who espoused our cause, and fought for it as though it were her own. The educated people of all classes sympathized with us. They admired in us the courage which they lacked, to throw off the power of a despotic government. The love of independence is one of the strong characteristics of the French people, and they wanted to see us win our freedom. Even while maintaining a show of neutrality, they secretly opened their treasury and military stores to us. The people all desired an alliance with the Americans, but the King and his council diplomatically waited until after the surrender of Burgoyne, when he had a brighter prospect, before binding themselves to aid us. In 1778,

France signed two treaties with the Americans, one of commerce, and the other of defensive alliance. By these terms a French fleet was to be equipped and sent to America with troops, and the long empty treasury supplied. These treaties secured to us the support of a country which once controlled the destinies of Europe and was still the chief power on the continent.

Beside the national support given us, there were many individuals, who, fired by zeal for our cause, helped us fight against the tyrant. Some gave of their means and time, remaining on the continent, while others crossed the Atlantic and fought with arms. Beaumarchais became infatuated with our cause and established a commercial house to which we sent our natural products and received in return money, arms, ammunition and other supplies.

Lafayette, the most beloved of all the foreign officers, became interested first in our struggle at a dinner given to the brother of King George, of England. He plied the Duke with questions and before the banquet ended had decided to enlist in our ranks. When his intentions became known, his family and the court forbade him to proceed further, but he fitted up a vessel at his own expense, and slipped away in disguise. He made the arrangements with Silas Deane, our representative at Paris, who procured for him the commission of Major General, and a lesser one for DeKalb, who accompanied him. A brave-hearted commander, beloved by Washington and all the American people, he served without pay throughout the war. When General Lafayette returned to France on a visit in 1779, he sought to enlist more thorough co-operation between his native country and the one he had adopted, and so far succeeded, that an auxiliary army of six thousand troops was raised. This army was placed under the command of Rochambeau, a veteran soldier, who brought them across the Atlantic to assist in the final struggle. They fought side by side with the Americans slowly pushing on, until by the timely aid of the French fleet, freedom was won. The dark days of the Revolution seem brighter and our hearts glow with gratitude when we think of the sympathy given us by sister nations.

IVA.



OFFICERS MISSOURI SOCIETY

Sons of the Revolution.

ELECTED FEBRUARY 22, 1905.

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